

House refused to concur in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1842 on May 29, 2015, and requested the appointment of a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; the House adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 1842 on May 31, 2015: Yeas 125, Nays 18, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 26, 2015: Yeas 21, Nays 10; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 1842 on May 31, 2015: Yeas 26, Nays 5.

Approved June 19, 2015.

Effective June 19, 2015.

EMPLOYMENT OF A STATEWIDE DATA COORDINATOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION RESOURCES

CHAPTER 1047

H.B. No. 1912

AN ACT

relating to employment of a statewide data coordinator in the Department of Information Resources.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 2054, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 2054.0286 to read as follows:

Sec. 2054.0286. STATEWIDE DATA COORDINATOR. (a) The executive director, using existing department funds, shall employ a statewide data coordinator to:

- (1) improve the control and security of information collected by state agencies;*
- (2) promote between state agencies the sharing of information, including customer information; and*
- (3) reduce information collection costs incurred by this state.*

(b) The statewide data coordinator shall develop and implement best practices among state agencies to:

- (1) improve interagency information coordination;*
- (2) reduce duplicative information collection;*
- (3) increase accountability and ensure compliance with statutes and rules requiring agencies to share information;*
- (4) improve information management and analysis to increase information security, uncover fraud and waste, reduce agency costs, improve agency operations, and verify compliance with applicable laws;*
- (5) encourage agencies to collect and post on the agencies' Internet websites information related to agency functions that is in an open file format and is machine-readable, exportable, and easily accessible by the public; and*
- (6) encourage the evaluation of open document formats for storing data and documents generated by state agencies.*

(c) Each state agency shall cooperate with the statewide data coordinator in fulfilling the requirements of this section.

(d) This section expires September 1, 2021.

SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the executive director of the Department of Information Resources shall employ a statewide data coordinator as required by Section 2054.0286, Government Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on April 23, 2015: Yeas 139, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1912 on May 27, 2015: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 24, 2015: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS CONCERNING INVASIVE SPECIES

CHAPTER 1048

H.B. No. 1919

AN ACT

relating to the applicability of certain provisions concerning invasive species.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 66.007, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Subsection (n) to read as follows:

(n) A water transfer described by this subsection is not a violation of this section. The department may not require a permit under this section for a water transfer described by this subsection. This subsection applies to a water transfer that meets the following criteria:

(1) the transfer is through a water supply system, including a related water conveyance, storage, or distribution facility;

(2) the transfer is undertaken by a utility owned by a political subdivision, including a water district or municipality; and

(3) the transfer is described by one or more of the following:

(A) a transfer from a water body in which there is no known exotic harmful or potentially harmful fish or shellfish population;

(B) a transfer of water into a water body in which there is a known exotic harmful or potentially harmful fish or shellfish population;

(C) a transfer of water directly to a water treatment facility;

(D) a transfer of water that has been treated prior to the transfer into a water body; or

(E) a transfer of water from a reservoir or through a dam to address flood control or to meet water supply requirements or environmental flow purposes, provided that a person making a transfer of water described by this paragraph from a body of water in which there is a known exotic harmful or potentially harmful fish or shellfish population notifies the department annually in writing before the proposed transfer occurs.

SECTION 2. Section 66.0072, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(g) A water transfer described by this subsection is not a violation of this section. The department may not require a permit under this section for a water transfer described by this subsection. This subsection applies to a water transfer that meets the following criteria:

(1) the transfer is through a water supply system, including a related water conveyance, storage, or distribution facility;